GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2066
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2012
ESSENTIAL MEDICINES UNDER PRICE CONTROL
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of essential medicines which are so far covered under the price control;

(b) whether the Government has any proposal to bring in all essential medicines under price control to protect the interests of the patients;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the said proposal is likely to be introduced and its likely impact thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT KUMAR JENA)

(a) The essential medicines are not defined in the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO,95).However, the drugs are classified as `essential` under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 under which DPCO, 1995 is issued. Under DPCO,95, 74 bulk drugs are listed in the First Schedule which are termed as the scheduled drugs. As per the provisions of the DPCO, 1995, NPPA fixes or revises prices of scheduled drugs and formulations containing these scheduled drugs.

(b) to (d):The Department of Pharmaceuticals has prepared a draft National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2011 (NPPP-2011) based on the criteria of essentiality and requirements as stipulated by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. The draft National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2011 was circulated among the concerned Ministries/Stakeholders.The draft policy was also available for comments of any other interested person on the Department`s website www.pharmaceuticals.qov.in till 30.11.2011. The view/inputs received on the draft NPPP, 2011 were examined and the matter was placed before the Group of Ministers (GoM) which met on 25.4.2012. Subsequent to this two meeting have been held by the GoM.